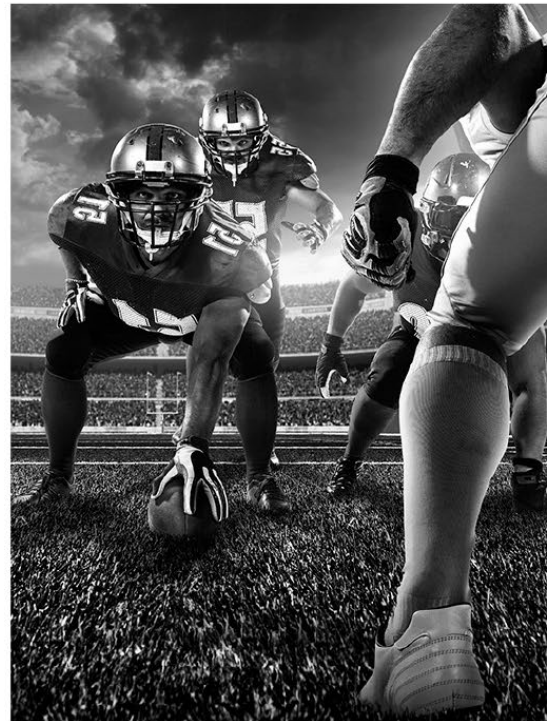
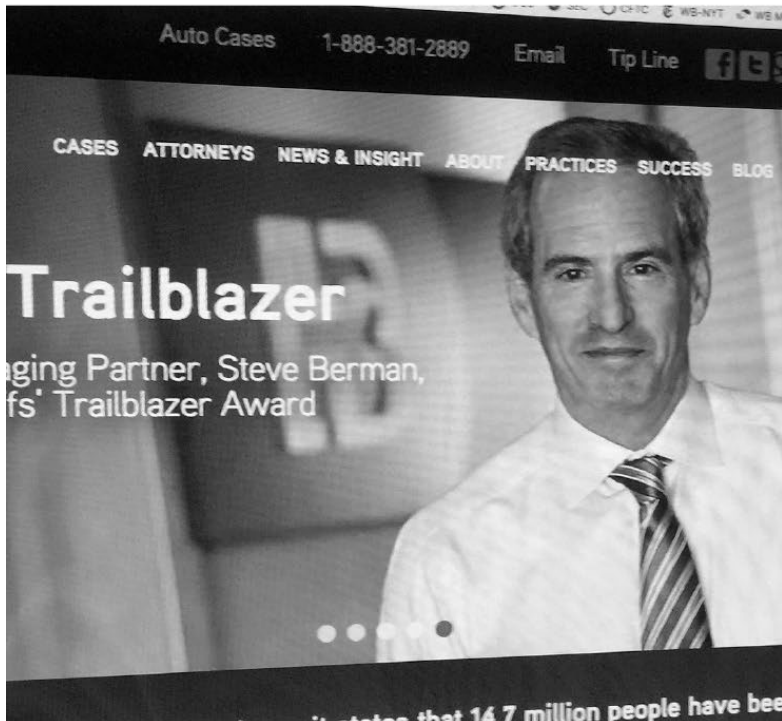


# EXHIBIT A



## HAGENS BERMAN



Hagens Berman is a national leader in class-action litigation driven by an international team of legal powerhouses. With a tenacious spirit, we are motivated to make a positive difference in people's lives.

# Table of Contents

**INTRODUCTION ..... 4**

The Firm .....4

Locations.....5

Quotes .....6

Victories & Settlements .....8

**ANTITRUST..... 8**

**LEGAL TEAM..... 13**

Steve W. Berman .....14

Rio S. Pierce .....22

Breanna Van Engelen.....24

Stephanie A. Verdoia .....25

Ted Wojcik .....26

## INTRODUCTION

## The Firm

Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP was founded in 1993 with one purpose: to help victims with claims of fraud and negligence that adversely impact a broad group. Through the firm's initial focus on class action and other types of complex, multi-party litigation, we have always represented plaintiffs and those seeking representation against wrongdoing and fraud. As the firm grew, it expanded its scope while staying true to its mission of taking on important cases that implicate the public interest and the greater good. We represent plaintiffs including consumers, inventors, investors, workers, the environment, governments, whistleblowers and others.

---

**We are one of the nation's leading class-action law firms and have earned an international reputation for excellence and innovation in ground-breaking litigation against large corporations.**

---

### OUR FOCUS

Our focus is to represent plaintiffs in [antitrust](#), [consumer fraud](#), product liability, tort, [sexual harassment](#), [securities and investment fraud](#), [employment](#), [whistleblower law](#), [intellectual property](#), [environmental](#) and employee pension protection cases. Our firm is particularly skilled at managing multi-state and nationwide class actions through an organized, coordinated approach that implements an efficient and aggressive prosecutorial strategy to place maximum pressure on defendants.

### WE WIN

We believe excellence stems from a commitment to try each case, vigorously represent the best interests of our clients and obtain maximum recovery. Our opponents know we are determined and tenacious, and they respect our skills and recognize our track record of achieving top results for those who need it most.

### WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

We are driven to return to the class every possible portion of its damages—our track record proves it. While many class action or individual plaintiff cases result in large legal fees and no meaningful outcome for the client or class, Hagens Berman finds ways to return real value to the victims of corporate fraud and malfeasance through damages and real change.

### AN INTERNATIONAL REACH

Our firm offers clients an international scope of practice. We have flourished through our core network of offices across the United States, and with a global expansion, Hagens Berman has grown geographically to where our eyes have always been: trends of fraud, negligence and wrongdoing that may be taking form anywhere in the world. The firm now does business through endeavors in London and Amsterdam. Our reach is not limited to the cities where we maintain offices. We have cases pending in several countries and have a vested interest in fighting global instances of oppression and injustice.

INTRODUCTION

## Locations

### SEATTLE

1301 Second Avenue  
Suite 2000  
Seattle, WA 98101  
T 206-623-7292  
F 206-623-0594

### BERKELEY

715 Hearst Avenue  
Suite 202  
Berkeley, CA 94710  
T 510-725-3000  
F 510-725-3001

### BOSTON

1 Faneuil Sq.  
5th Floor  
Boston, MA 02109  
T 617-482-3700  
F 617-482-3003

### CHICAGO

455 N. Cityfront Plaza Drive  
Suite 2410  
Chicago, IL 60611  
T 708-628-4949  
F 708-628-4950

### LOS ANGELES

301 North Lake Avenue  
Suite 920  
Pasadena, CA 91101  
T 213-330-7150  
F 213-330-7152

### NEW YORK

555 Fifth Avenue  
Suite 1700  
New York, NY 10017  
T 212-752-5455  
F 917-210-3980

### PHOENIX

11 West Jefferson Street  
Suite 1000  
Phoenix, AZ 85003  
T 602-840-5900  
F 602-840-3012

### SAN DIEGO

533 F Street  
Suite 207  
San Diego, CA 92101  
T 619-929-3340

### LONDON

Hagens Berman UK LLP  
125 Old Broad Street  
London, EC2N 1AR  
T 0203 150 1445

## INTRODUCTION

## Quotes

“...unprecedented success in the antitrust field...”

— California Magistrate Judge Nathanael M. Cousins  
A July 2015 order awarding attorneys' fees in [student-athlete name and likeness litigation](#)

“...the track record of Hagens Berman[‘s] Steve Berman is...impressive, having racked... a \$1.6 billion settlement in the [Toyota Unintended Acceleration Litigation](#) and a substantial number of really outstanding big-ticket results.”

— Hon. Milton I. Shadur, Senior U.S. District Judge, naming Hagens Berman interim class counsel in [Stericycle Pricing MDL](#) (Hagens Berman served as lead counsel and secured a \$255 million settlement for class members.)

“All right, I think I can conclude on the basis with my five years with you all, watching this litigation progress and seeing it wind to a conclusion, that the results are exceptional...You did an exceptionally good job at organizing and managing the case...”

— U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, [In re Dynamic Random Access Memory Antitrust Litigation](#) (Hagens Berman was co-lead counsel and helped achieve the \$325 million class settlement.)

“Settlement Class Members will benefit significantly from the Settlement that occurred because of the efforts of Class Counsel.”

— Hon. Judith E. Levy, U.S. District Judge  
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Final Approval Order [Wood et al. v. FCA US LLC](#)

“[A] clear choice emerges. That choice is the Hagens Berman firm.”

— U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, [In re Optical Disk Drive Products Antitrust Litigation](#) (Appointing the firm lead counsel in the case which would later usher in \$180 million in settlements.)

“Landmark consumer cases are business as usual for Steve Berman.”

— The National Law Journal, naming Steve Berman one of the 100 most influential attorneys in the nation for the third time in a row

“Berman is considered one of the nation’s top class action lawyers.”

— Associated Press

“...I have never worked with such professional, decent counsel.”

— Hon. Dennis M. Cavanaugh, United States District Judge (Retired), Transcript Of Proceedings Fairness Hearing for [In Re Mercedes-Benz Emissions Litigation](#). (Hagens Berman helped secure a \$700 million settlement for class members and served as interim class counsel.)

“...aggressive and independent advocacy...”

— Hon. Thomas M. Durkin  
Order Appointing Hagens Berman as Interim Class Counsel in [Maplevale Farms, Inc. v. Koch Foods, Inc. et al](#)

“...when you get good lawyers this is what happens; you get these cases resolved.”

— Hon. Dennis M. Cavanaugh, United States District Judge (Retired)  
Proceedings Fairness Hearing for [In Re Mercedes-Benz Emissions Litigation](#)

“Class Counsel are extremely qualified and competent counsel who have experience and expertise prosecuting complex class actions...successfully tried class actions to jury verdicts and...also obtained billions of dollars in settlements...”

— Hon. Paul A. Magnuson  
U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Final [CBL](#) Approval Order



## INTRODUCTION

## Victories & Settlements

The firm has recovered more than \$325 billion on behalf of class members in large-scale complex litigation.

### \$206 BILLION

#### STATE TOBACCO LITIGATION

Hagens Berman represented 13 states prosecuting major actions against Big Tobacco. The settlement led to a multistate settlement requiring the tobacco companies to pay the states and submit to advertising and marketing restrictions. It was the largest civil settlement in history.

### \$23 BILLION

#### VISA-MASTERCARD ANTITRUST LITIGATION

The firm served as co-lead counsel in what was then the largest antitrust settlement in history valued at \$27 billion.

### \$14.7 BILLION

#### VOLKSWAGEN EMISSIONS LITIGATION

Hagens Berman was named a member of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee and part of the Settlement Negotiating team in this monumental case that culminated in the largest automotive settlement in history. The firm was also the first to file against Volkswagen regarding its Dieselgate emissions-cheating scandal.

### \$1.6 BILLION

#### TOYOTA UNINTENDED ACCELERATION LITIGATION

Hagens Berman served as co-lead counsel and secured what was then the largest automotive settlement in history in this class action that recovered \$1.6 billion for vehicle owners.

### \$1.6 BILLION

#### VOLKSWAGEN FRANCHISE DEALERS LITIGATION

The firm served as lead counsel representing VW franchise dealers in this lawsuit related to VW's Dieselgate scandal. The settlement recovered nearly full damages for the class.

### \$1.45 BILLION

#### MERACORD

The firm secured a default judgment on behalf of consumers for useless debt-settlement conspiracy, following years of plaintiff victories in the case. Hagens Berman filed its lawsuit in 2011, on behalf of consumers nationwide, claiming the company violated Washington law and the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.

### \$1.3 BILLION

#### HYUNDAI KIA THETA II GDI FIRE HAZARD LITIGATION

This settlement includes reimbursements for repairs, lifetime warranties and other compensation for affected owners. Hagens Berman is co-lead counsel in this case accusing automakers of selling vehicles with failure-prone engines that could sometimes catch fire. The case is still pending litigation pertaining to other affected models.

### \$700 MILLION

#### MERCEDES BLUETEC EMISSIONS LITIGATION

A monumental settlement was reached on behalf of owners of Mercedes vehicles affected by Daimler's emissions cheating. The case was initially filed and researched by Hagens Berman, based on the firm's independent vehicle testing, and the firm served as co-lead counsel. The consumer settlement followed a \$1.5 billion settlement between Mercedes and the U.S. Justice Department and California Air Resources Board. The settlement includes an \$875 million civil penalty for violating the Clean Air Act.

### \$700 MILLION

#### WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM (WPPSS) SECURITIES LITIGATION

Hagens Berman represented bondholders and the trustee in a class action stemming from the failure of two nuclear projects. Plaintiffs were awarded a \$700 million settlement.

**\$560 MILLION****E-BOOKS ANTITRUST LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman served as co-lead counsel against Apple and five of the nation's largest publishing companies and secured a combined \$560 million settlement, returning class members nearly twice their losses in recovery, following the firm's victory over Apple after it appealed the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

**\$470 MILLION****LCD ANTITRUST LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman served as a member of the Executive Committee representing consumers in multi-district litigation. Total settlements exceeded \$470 million.

**\$453 MILLION****GLUMETZA ANTITRUST LITIGATION**

The court denied summary judgment and paved the way for trial in this litigation against brand and generic manufacturers of the diabetes drug Glumetza. Hagens Berman served as co-lead counsel for the direct purchaser class. U.S. District Judge William Alsup granted preliminarily approved of \$453.85 million in settlements resolving direct purchasers' allegations.

**\$444 MILLION****MCKESSON DRUG LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman was lead counsel in a series of racketeering cases against McKesson for drug pricing fraud that settled for more than \$444 million on the eve of trials.

**\$383.5 MILLION****DAVITA HEALTHCARE PERSONAL INJURY LITIGATION**

A Denver jury awarded a monumental \$383.5 million verdict to families of three patients who died after receiving dialysis treatments at DaVita clinics.

**\$345 MILLION****DRAM ANTITRUST LITIGATION**

The firm was co-lead counsel in this antitrust case which settled for \$345 million in favor of purchasers of dynamic random access memory chips (DRAM).

**\$340 MILLION****RANBAXY INC.**

Hagens Berman serves as co-lead counsel representing Meijer Inc. and Meijer Distribution Inc. in a class-action lawsuit filed against drug maker, Ranbaxy, accusing the pharma company of recklessly stuffing the generic drug approval queues with grossly inadequate applications, deceiving the FDA into granting tentative approvals to lock in statutory exclusivities to which Ranbaxy was not

entitled and brandishing these undeserved exclusivities to exclude others while its own applications floundered, all at the direct expense of U.S. drug purchasers. The settlement is part of a \$485 million total settlement for all plaintiffs in the case.

**\$338 MILLION****AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICE DRUG LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman was lead counsel in this ground-breaking drug pricing case against the world's largest pharmaceutical companies, resulting in a victory at trial. The court approved a total of \$338 million in settlements.

**\$325 MILLION****NEURONTIN PFIZER LITIGATION**

The firm brought suit against Pfizer and its subsidiary, Parke-Davis, accusing the companies of a fraudulent scheme to market and sell the drug Neurontin for a variety of "off-label" uses for which it is not approved or medically efficacious.

**\$307 MILLION****ECODIESEL EMISSIONS CHEATING LITIGATION**

The firm achieved a settlement on behalf of owners of EcoDiesel Dodge 1500 and Jeep Grand Cherokee vehicles in response to Fiat Chrysler's emissions-cheating, masking emissions levels up to 10 times the legal limit. Under the settlement, class members who repair their vehicles and submit a claim will receive \$3,075, and former owners and lessees will be entitled to \$990. The total value of the deal will be \$307 million, granted all owners submit a valid claim.

**\$255 MILLION****HYUNDAI & KIA FUEL ECONOMY LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman filed a class-action lawsuit on behalf of consumers against Hyundai and Kia for overstating fuel economy for many vehicles they sold in the United States.

**\$255 MILLION****STERICYCLE, STERI-SAFE LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman served as lead counsel representing small businesses including veterinary clinics, medical clinics and labs in a class-action lawsuit alleging Stericycle's billing practices and accounting software violated consumer laws and constituted breach of contract.

**\$250 MILLION****ENRON ERISA LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman was co-lead counsel in this ERISA litigation, which recovered in excess of \$250 million, the largest ERISA settlement in history.

**\$235 MILLION****CHARLES SCHWAB SECURITIES LITIGATION**

The firm was lead counsel in this action alleging fraud in the management of the Schwab YieldPlus mutual fund. A \$235 million class settlement was approved by the court.

**\$234 MILLION****AEQUITAS CAPITAL MANAGEMENT**

The firm settled this case on behalf of 1,600 investors of the now-defunct Aequitas companies. It is believed to be the largest securities settlement in Oregon history.

**\$218 MILLION****JP MORGAN MADOFF**

Hagens Berman settled this case on behalf of Bernard L. Madoff investors in a suit filed against JPMorgan Chase Bank, its parents, subsidiaries and affiliates. The settlement against JPMorgan involved three simultaneous, separately negotiated settlements totaling more than \$2.2 billion.

**\$215 MILLION****USC, DR. GEORGE TYNDALL SEXUAL ABUSE AND HARASSMENT**

The firm served as co-lead counsel and secured a \$215 million settlement on behalf of a class of thousands of survivors of sexual assault against the University of Southern California and its Dr. George Tyndall, the full-time gynecologist at USC's student health clinic.

**\$208 MILLION****NCAA SCHOLARSHIP CAP ANTITRUST LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman was co-lead counsel in the damages portion of this historic antitrust class action claiming the NCAA unlawfully capped the value of athletic scholarships. In a historic ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously upheld a trial victory regarding the injunctive portion of the case securing monumental improvements for college athletes, and forever changing college sports. Steve Berman served as trial counsel.

**\$205 MILLION****OPTICAL DISC DRIVES (ODD) ANTITRUST LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman served as lead counsel on behalf of consumers in a lawsuit filed against Philips, Pioneer and others for artificially inflating the price of ODDs.

**\$200 MILLION****NEW ENGLAND COMPOUNDING PHARMACY MENINGITIS OUTBREAK LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman attorneys Thomas M. Sobol and Kristen A. Johnson served as court-appointed lead counsel for the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee on behalf of plaintiff-victims of the 2012 fungal meningitis outbreak that led to more than 64 deaths and hundreds of joint infection cases.

**\$181 MILLION****BROILER CHICKEN ANTITRUST LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman serves as interim class counsel in a case against Tyson, Purdue and 16 other chicken producers for conspiring to stabilize chicken prices by reducing production. The firm continues to litigate the case against remaining defendants.

**\$169 MILLION****ANIMATION WORKERS**

Hagens Berman was co-lead counsel for a class of approximately 10,000 animators and other artistic workers in an antitrust class action against Pixar, DreamWorks, The Walt Disney Company, Sony and others for allegedly conspiring to restrain competition and suppress industry wages. A \$168 million settlement resulted in a payment of more than \$13,000 per class member.

**\$150 MILLION****FLONASE ANTITRUST LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman was co-lead counsel representing purchasers in this case alleging GlaxoSmithKline filed petitions to prevent the emergence of generic competitors to its drug Flonase to overcharge consumers and purchasers of the drug, which would have been priced lower had a generic competitor been allowed to come to market.

**\$150 MILLION****LUPRON CONSUMER LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman served as co-lead counsel on behalf of consumers and third-party payors who purchased the drug Lupron. Under the terms of the settlement, TAP Pharmaceuticals paid \$150 million on behalf of all defendants.

**\$123.4 MILLION****EXPEDIA LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman led this class arising from bundled “taxes and service fees” that Expedia collects when its consumers book hotel reservations. Plaintiffs alleged that by collecting exorbitant fees as a flat percentage of the room rates, Expedia violated both the Washington Consumer Protection Act and its contractual commitment to charge as service fees only “costs incurred in servicing” a given reservation.

**\$120 MILLION****LOESTRIN ANTITRUST LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman served as interim co-lead counsel for the certified class of direct purchasers. The parties reached a proposed settlement shortly before trial.

**\$113 MILLION****BATTERIES ANTITRUST LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman served as co-lead counsel and secured a settlement in this class-action lawsuit against some of the largest electronics manufacturers for illegally fixing the price of lithium-ion batteries, pushing costs higher for consumers.

**\$100 MILLION****APPLE IOS APP STORE LITIGATION**

In this lawsuit against Apple, the firm served as interim lead counsel in this matter and represented U.S. iOS developers against the tech giant. The suit accused Apple of monopolizing distribution services for iOS apps and in-app digital products, resulting in commission overcharges. Apple agreed to pay \$100 million and make developer-friendly changes to its App Store policy.

**\$100 MILLION****OPPENHEIMER CORE BOND AND CHAMPION INCOME FUNDS LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman obtained these combined settlements in two cases alleging that various Oppenheimer entities and certain individual defendants made materially false or misleading statements and omissions to the investing public regarding the investment profile and objectives of the two funds.

**\$100 MILLION****TREMONT LITIGATION**

The firm filed a class action on behalf of investors alleging the company and others grossly neglected fiduciary duties by turning capital over to Bernard Madoff Investment Securities.

**\$98 MILLION****PROGRAF ANTITRUST LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman served as court-appointed co-lead class counsel representing a class of direct purchasers of Prograf. The antitrust lawsuit alleges that Astellas violated antitrust laws by filing petition with the FDA as a means of delaying entry of a generic version of Prograf, a drug used to prevent organ rejection by kidney, liver, heart and lung transplant patients.

**\$95 MILLION****PORK ANTITRUST LITIGATION**

This antitrust class action seeks to hold accountable the largest pork producers in the United States, alleging that since 2014, Tyson, Hormel and others colluded to knowingly reduce pork production to artificially inflate prices for consumers. The firm continues to litigate against remaining defendants following icebreaker settlements.

**\$92.5 MILLION****BOEING SECURITIES LITIGATION**

Boeing and Hagens Berman agreed to a proposed settlement to this shareholder suit filed in November 1997 by Hagens Berman. The settlement, the then second largest awarded in the Northwest, affected tens of thousands of Boeing common stock shareholders.

**\$90 MILLION****GOOGLE PLAY STORE APP DEVELOPERS**

The firm filed a class action on behalf of Android app developers for violating antitrust laws by illegally monopolizing markets for Android app distribution and in-app payment processing.

**\$86 MILLION****GENERIC PHARMACEUTICALS ANTITRUST LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman filed multiple lawsuits against numerous generic pharmaceutical companies for conspiring to increase and set prices on inexpensive, commonly used generic drugs. A combined settlement of up to \$86 million was reached with Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Inc., Taro Pharmaceuticals USA Inc. and Breckenridge Pharmaceutical Inc. The U.S. DOJ opened a criminal probe into the matter following Hagens Berman’s case.

# ANTITRUST

## PRACTICE AREAS

**Antitrust**

Hagens Berman works to preserve fair trade and healthy marketplace competition by protecting consumers and businesses from price-fixing, market allocation agreements, monopolistic schemes and other trade restraints. The firm's lawyers have earned an enviable reputation as experts in this often confusing and combative area of commercial litigation. Our attorneys have a deep understanding of legal and economic issues within the marketplace, allowing us to employ groundbreaking market theories that shed light on restrictive anti-competitive practices.

Hagens Berman represents millions of consumers in high-profile class-action lawsuits and takes on major antitrust litigation to improve market conditions for consumers, businesses and investors. We have represented plaintiffs in markets as diverse as debit and credit card services, personal computer components, electric and gas power, airlines and internet services, and we have prevailed against some of the world's largest corporations.

The firm's antitrust cases span the reaches of anticompetitive behavior, impacting even the realm of college sports. In the Keller and O'Bannon cases, the firm represented college athletes against the NCAA and Electronic Arts Inc. claiming the companies illegally use college football and basketball players' names and likenesses in video games without permission or consent from the player. In those matters, the firm secured a total \$60 million in settlements, and checks went out to about 15,000 players, some up to \$7,600, with a median around \$1,100. The firm continues its work litigating against the NCAA regarding name, image and likeness (NIL) rights and has brought about significant changes already to the NCAA's policies and procedures regulating payments.

In NCAA Grants-in-Aid Scholarships Litigation, the firm brought an antitrust class action against the NCAA on behalf of college athletes, claiming that the NCAA had violated the law when it kept the class from being able to receive compensation provided by schools or conferences for athletic services other than cash. Following a \$208 million settlement in the damages portion of the case – an almost 100% recovery of single damages – the Supreme Court upheld the favorable opinion of the Ninth Circuit in a 9-0 ruling regarding injunctive relief. Justice Kavanaugh's opinion further underscored the massive win for plaintiffs and the ruling's ongoing effects: "The NCAA couches its arguments for not paying student athletes in innocuous labels. But the labels cannot disguise the reality: The NCAA's business model would be flatly illegal in almost any other industry in America," pushing for further scrutiny of the NCAA's regulations. After the ruling the NCAA relaxed some of the NIL restrictions and the market for NIL revenue has exploded reaching almost \$5 billion this year. Few antitrust decisions have been so transformative. Currently Hagens Berman is co-lead counsel in House v. NCAA, which challenges current restrictions on athletes NIL rights and seeks damages for lost NIL opportunities. In House, plaintiffs seek a share of the golden goose, namely, NCAA and conference broadcast and licensing revenues.

The firm has also generated substantial recoveries on behalf of health plans and consumers in antitrust cases involving pharmaceutical companies abusing patent rights to block generic drugs from coming to market. The firm has also taken on wage-fixing antitrust agreements in various industries including animation, food production and aerospace engineering. Hagens Berman has served as lead or co-lead counsel in landmark antitrust litigation in many matters, including Paxil Direct Purchaser Litigation (\$100 million), Relafen Antitrust Litigation (\$75 million), Tricor Indirect

Purchaser Antitrust Litigation (\$65.7 million), and Augmentin Antitrust Litigation (\$29 million). Representative antitrust successes on behalf of our clients include:

#### **VISA/MASTERCARD ANTITRUST LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman was co-lead counsel in this record-breaking antitrust case against credit card giants Visa and MasterCard that challenged charges imposed in connection with debit cards.

**RESULT:** \$3.05 billion settlement and injunctive relief valued at more than \$23 billion

#### **APPLE E-BOOKS LITIGATION**

With state attorneys general, the firm served as lead counsel to secure a \$166 million settlement with publishing companies that conspired with Apple to fix e-book prices. The firm then took on Apple for its part in the price-fixing conspiracy. In the final stage, the U.S. Supreme Court denied appeal from Apple, bringing the consumer payback amount to more than twice the amount of losses suffered by the class of e-book purchasers. This represents one of the most successful recoveries in any antitrust lawsuit in the country.

**RESULT:** \$560 million in total settlements

#### **LG PHILIPS AND TOSHIBA LCD LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman filed a class action against more than 20 manufacturers of TFT LCD products, including LG Philips and Toshiba, claiming the companies engaged in a conspiracy to fix, raise, maintain and stabilize the price of electronic products and devices. After years of representing consumers in multi-district litigation, the case against Toshiba went to trial. In 2012, Toshiba was found guilty of price-fixing and settled.

**RESULT:** \$470 million in total settlements

#### **DRAM PRICE-FIXING LITIGATION**

The suit claimed DRAM (Dynamic Random Access Memory) manufacturers secretly agreed to reduce the supply of DRAM, a necessary component in a wide variety of electronics, which artificially raised prices. The class included equipment manufacturers, franchise distributors and purchasers.

**RESULT:** \$375 million settlement

#### **OPTICAL DISK DRIVES LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman fought on behalf of consumers in a lawsuit filed against Philips, Pioneer and others for artificially inflating the price of ODDs for consumers.

**RESULT:** \$205 million in total settlements

#### **BROILER CHICKEN LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman serves as co-lead counsel in this massive antitrust class action asserting that the nation's largest broiler chicken producers – Tyson, Pilgrim's Pride, Perdue and a host of others – conspired to fix the price of chicken for consumers by up to 50 percent since 2009. Settlements will offer compensation to millions of American consumers who have unknowingly overpaid for chicken products for years.

**RESULT:** \$181 million in total settlements. The firm continues to litigate against remaining defendants

#### **ANIMATION WORKERS LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman served as co-lead counsel for a nationwide class of approximately 10,000 animators and other artistic workers in an antitrust class-action case filed against Pixar, DreamWorks, The Walt Disney Company, Sony, Blue Sky Studios and others for allegedly conspiring to restrain competition to suppress compensation. The settlement resulted in a payment of more than \$13,000 per class member.



**RESULT:** \$169 million settlement

#### **LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman filed a class-action lawsuit against some of the largest electronics manufacturers for illegally fixing the price of lithium-ion batteries, pushing costs higher for consumers.

**RESULT:** \$113 million in total settlements

#### **APPLE IOS APP DEVELOPERS**

The firm achieved a \$100 million settlement with Apple on behalf of US iOS app developers and developers of in-app products sold on Apple's App Store following the filing of an antitrust class-action lawsuit. The suit accused Apple monopolized U.S. distribution for iOS apps and in-app digital products, resulting in commission overcharges to developers. The settlement brings important changes to App Store policies and practices, and U.S. iOS developers with less than \$1 million in annual proceeds from App Store sales can receive hundreds to tens of thousands of dollars in compensation.

**RESULT:** \$100 million settlement

#### **GOOGLE PLAY STORE APP DEVELOPERS**

The firm achieved a \$90 million settlement with Google on behalf of roughly 43,000 US Android app developers and developers of in-app products sold on Google's Play Store following the filing of an antitrust class-action lawsuit. The firm filed the class action against Google for violations of antitrust laws by illegally monopolizing markets for Android app distribution and in-app payment processing.

**RESULT:** \$100 million settlement

#### **PORK ANTITRUST LITIGATION**

In this antitrust class action, the firm's investigation revealed that since 2014, pork producers such as Tyson, Hormel and others colluded to knowingly reduce pork production to artificially inflate prices. The pork producers engaged in a conspiracy that has cost American consumers millions of dollars over the years, and so far Hagens Berman's antitrust team have achieved multiple settlements with defendants and continues to litigate claims against those remaining.

**RESULT:** \$95 million in settlements

#### **GENERIC PHARMACEUTICAL PRICING ANTITRUST LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman filed multiple lawsuits against numerous generic pharmaceutical companies for conspiring to increase and set prices on inexpensive, commonly used generic drugs. In 2022, U.S. District Judge Cynthia M. Rufe preliminarily approved \$86 million in settlements with Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Inc., Taro Pharmaceuticals USA Inc. and Breckenridge Pharmaceutical Inc. for direct purchasers and indirect resellers to settle price-fixing allegations. The U.S. Department of Justice has since opened a criminal probe into the matter following Hagens Berman's case.

**RESULT:** \$86 million settlement

#### **RELAFEN ANTITRUST LITIGATION**

In 2006, Judge William Young issued preliminary approval of a proposed settlement between GlaxoSmithKline and a class of consumers and third-party payors who purchased the drug Relafen or its generic alternatives. Under the terms of the settlement, the defendants paid damages of \$75 million to class members. Of the total settlement amount, \$25 million was allocated to consumers and \$50 million was used to pay the claims of insurers and other third-party payors.

**RESULT:** \$75 million settlement



**DAIRY PRICE-FIXING LITIGATION**

The firm filed a class-action suit against several large players in the dairy industry, including the National Milk Producers Federation, Dairy Farmers of America, Land O'Lakes, Inc., Agri-Mark, Inc. and Cooperatives Working Together that together produce nearly 70 percent of milk consumed in the U.S. The suit alleged the groups conspired to fix U.S. milk prices through an organized scheme to limit production, involving the needless, premature slaughtering of 500,000 cows.

**RESULT:** \$52 million settlement

**RESISTORS ANTITRUST LITIGATION**

Hagens Berman was co-lead counsel, representing direct purchasers of linear resistors, a device in electronics used to limit electric current, against an alleged cartel of manufacturers who conspired to limit linear resistor price competition for nearly a decade.

**RESULT:** \$50.25 million settlement

**EA MADDEN NFL ANTITRUST LITIGATION**

The firm represented a class of consumers against Electronic Arts (EA) alleging it violated antitrust and consumer laws by inflating the price of EA-published videogames. The lawsuit alleged EA established agreements with the National Football League, The NFL Players Union, Arena Football League and the National Collegiate Athletic Association that drove competition out of the market and prevented new competitors from entering.

**RESULT:** \$27 million settlement

**REAL ESTATE COMMISSIONS ANTITRUST LITIGATION**

The firm represents two classes of home sellers accusing the National Association of Realtors and the Big Four real estate broker franchises of conspiring to artificially inflate commissions associated with home sales. In the court's certification of a damages class and an injunctive relief class, sellers who sold their home through a Multiple Listing Service (MLS) from March, 6 2015 and Dec. 13, 2022 are included in the case, as well as current and future owners of residential real estate in affected jurisdictions who are currently listing or will list homes on an MLS. The court's class certification encompasses buyers who listed their homes on 20 MLSs around the country, and in denying defendants' motion to exclude two of plaintiffs' expert witnesses, the court said that the buyer-broker policies challenged in the lawsuit facilitate, "keeping buyers in the dark and severely restricting negotiations over buyer-broker commissions."

**RESULT:** The case is pending, and in 2021, U.S. District Judge Andrea R. Wood certified classes of consumers in the case

LEGAL TEAM



[steve@hbsslaw.com](mailto:steve@hbsslaw.com)

T 206-623-7292

F 206-623-0594

1301 Second Avenue  
Suite 2000  
Seattle, WA 98101

#### YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

41

#### PRACTICE AREAS

[Anti-Terrorism](#)

[Automotive Litigation](#)

[Civil & Human Rights](#)

[Class Action](#)

[Consumer Rights](#)

[Emissions Litigation](#)

[Environmental Litigation](#)

[Governmental Representation](#)

[High Tech Litigation](#)

[Intellectual Property](#)

[Investor Fraud](#)

Patent Litigation

Qui Tam

Securities

[Sexual Abuse & Harassment](#)

[Sports Litigation](#)

[Whistleblower](#)

#### BAR ADMISSIONS

- Illinois
- Washington
- Foreign Registered Attorney in England and Wales

#### COURT ADMISSIONS

- Supreme Court of the United States
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

#### MANAGING PARTNER

## Steve W. Berman

Served as co-lead counsel against Big Tobacco, resulting in the [largest settlement in world history](#), and at the time the [largest automotive, antitrust, ERISA and securities settlements in U.S. history](#). He has been named Class Action MVP of the Year for five consecutive years.

#### INTRODUCTION

Steve Berman represents consumers, investors and employees in large, complex litigation held in state and federal courts. Steve's trial experience has earned him significant recognition and led The National Law Journal to name him one of the [100 most powerful lawyers in the nation](#), and to repeatedly name Hagens Berman one of the top 10 plaintiffs' firms in the country. He was named an MVP of the Year by Law360 in class-action litigation and received the 2017, 2021 and 2022 Trailblazer award. Law360 also named him a Titan of the Plaintiffs Bar every eligible year, and his cases have received the American Antitrust Institute's Honoree for Outstanding Antitrust Litigation Achievement in Private Law Practice recognition three times just since 2018. Steve was also recognized for the sixth year as an Elite Trial Lawyer by The National Law Journal, and BestLawyers named him to its 2023 list of Best Lawyers in America in plaintiffs litigation.

Steve co-founded Hagens Berman in 1993 after his prior firm refused to represent several young children who consumed fast food contaminated with E. coli—Steve knew he had to help. In that case, Steve proved that the poisoning was the result of [Jack in the Box's cost cutting](#) measures along with gross negligence. He was further inspired to build a firm that vociferously fought for the rights of those unable to fight for themselves. Berman's innovative approach, tenacious conviction and impeccable track record have earned him an excellent reputation and numerous historic legal victories. He is considered one of the nation's most successful class-action attorneys, and has been praised for securing record-breaking settlements and tangible benefits for class members. Steve is particularly known for his tenacity in forging consumer settlements that return a high percentage of recovery to class members.

[Video Interviews »](#)

[Print & Online Feature Interviews »](#)

#### CURRENT ROLE

- Managing Partner of Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP and Co-Managing Director of Hagens Berman EMEA LLP (UK)

#### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- [State Tobacco Litigation](#) – \$260 billion, Special assistant attorney general for the states of Washington, Arizona, Illinois, Indiana, New York, Alaska, Idaho, Ohio, Oregon, Nevada, Montana, Vermont and Rhode Island in prosecuting major actions against the tobacco industry. In November 1998, the initial proposed settlement led to a multi-state settlement requiring the tobacco companies to pay the states \$260

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims
- U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington
- Supreme Court of Illinois
- Supreme Court of Washington

#### EDUCATION



#### AWARDS



billion and to submit to broad advertising and marketing restrictions – the largest civil settlement in history.

- [Visa MasterCard ATM Antitrust Litigation](#) – \$27 billion, Co-lead counsel in what was then the largest antitrust settlement in history: a class-action lawsuit alleging that Visa and MasterCard, together with Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase and Wells Fargo, violated federal antitrust laws by establishing uniform agreements with U.S. banks, preventing ATM operators from setting ATM access fees below the level of the fees charged on Visa’s and MasterCard’s networks.
- [Toyota Sudden, Unintended Acceleration](#) – \$1.6 billion, Hagens Berman was co-lead counsel in this massive MDL alleging that Toyota vehicles contained a defect causing sudden, unintended acceleration (SUA). It was the largest automotive settlement in history at the time, valued at up to \$1.6 billion. The firm did not initially seek to lead the litigation, but was sought out by the judge for its wealth of experience in managing very complex class-action MDLs. Hagens Berman and managing partner Steve Berman agreed to take on the role of co-lead counsel for the economic loss class and head the plaintiffs’ steering committee.
- [NCAA Grants-in-Aid Scholarships Litigation \(aka “Alston case,” in the press\)](#) - \$208 million settlement, and permanent injunction upheld by the Supreme Court, led the firm’s antitrust class action against the NCAA on behalf of college athletes, claiming that the NCAA had violated the law when it kept the class from being able to receive compensation provided by schools or conferences for athletic services other than cash compensation untethered to education-related expenses. The Supreme Court upheld the favorable opinion of the Ninth Circuit in a 9-0 ruling. Justice Kavanaugh’s opinion further underscored the massive win for plaintiffs and the ruling’s ongoing effects: “The NCAA couches its arguments for not paying student athletes in innocuous labels. But the labels cannot disguise the reality: The NCAA’s business model would be flatly illegal in almost any other industry in America,” pushing for further scrutiny of the NCAA’s regulations. Steve’s antitrust case against the NCAA involving rights of college athletes to receive grant-in-aid scholarships saw a unanimous Supreme Court victory, in what media called a “major ruling” (ABC World News Tonight), that “will change the game” (ABC Good Morning America), and leaves the NCAA “more vulnerable than ever” (AP).

Steve also leads the firm’s [NCAA Name, Image and Likeness \(NIL\) Litigation](#), in which current or former NCAA college athletes, using the *Alston* precedent, have filed a class-action lawsuit accusing the NCAA, Pacific-12 Conference, the Big Ten Conference, the Big Twelve Conference, Southeastern Conference and Atlantic Coast Conference of illegally limiting the compensation that Division I college athletes may receive for the use of their names, images, likenesses and athletic reputations. Thousands of college athletes have taken advantage of the NIL opportunities opened by the *Alston* case to the tune of multimillion-dollar deals now available to them since the NCAA loosened its restrictions on July 1, 2021.

- [Washington Public Power Supply System \(WPPSS\)](#) – \$700 million settlement, Represented bondholders and the bondholder trustee in a class-action lawsuit stemming from the failure of two WPPSS nuclear projects. The case was one of the most complex and lengthy securities fraud cases ever filed. The default was one of the largest municipal bond defaults in history. After years of litigation, plaintiffs were awarded a \$700 million settlement agreement brought against more than 200 defendants.
- [E-books Antitrust Litigation](#) – \$560 million settlement, Fought against Apple and five of the nation’s top publishers for colluding to raise the price of e-books, resulting in

THE NATIONAL  
LAW JOURNAL  
**PLAINTIFFS' HOT LIST**

100 MOST INFLUENTIAL  
LAWYERS IN AMERICA  
| A SPECIAL REPORT |

**MOST POWERFUL  
ATTORNEY**  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

**Super Lawyers**

recovery equal to twice consumers' actual damages. The firm recovered an initial settlement of more than \$160 million with defendant publishing companies in conjunction with several states attorneys general. Steve then led the firm to pursue Apple for its involvement in the e-book price hike. Apple took the case to the Supreme Court, where it was ruled that Apple had conspired to raise prices, and the firm achieved an additional \$450 million settlement for consumers.

- [Enron Pension Protection Litigation](#) – \$250 million settlement, Led the class-action litigation on behalf of Enron employees and retirees alleging that Enron leadership, including CEO Ken Lay, had a responsibility to protect the interests of those invested in the 401(k) program, an obligation they abrogated. The court selected Steve to co-lead the case against Enron and the other defendants.
- [Charles Schwab Securities Litigation](#) – \$235 million settlement, Led the firm to file the first class-action lawsuit against Charles Schwab on March 18, 2008, alleging that Schwab deceived investors about the underlying risk in its Schwab YieldPlus Funds Investor Shares and Schwab YieldPlus Funds Select Shares.
- [JP Morgan Madoff Lawsuit](#) – \$218 million settlement, Represented Bernard L. Madoff investors in a suit filed against JPMorgan Chase Bank, one of the largest banks in the world.
- [NCAA Grants-in-Aid Scholarships Lawsuit](#) – \$208 million settlement, and permanent injunction upheld by the Supreme Court, Led the firm's tenacious antitrust class action against the NCAA on behalf of college athletes, claiming that the NCAA had violated the law when it kept the class from being able to receive compensation provided by schools or conferences for athletic services other than cash compensation untethered to education-related expenses. The Supreme Court upheld the favorable opinion of the Ninth Circuit in a 9-0 ruling. Justice Kavanaugh's opinion further underscored the massive win for plaintiffs and the ruling's ongoing effects: "The NCAA couches its arguments for not paying student athletes in innocuous labels. But the labels cannot disguise the reality: The NCAA's business model would be flatly illegal in almost any other industry in America," pushing for further scrutiny of the NCAA's regulations.
- [Boeing Securities Litigation](#) – \$92.5 million settlement, Represented a class of tens of thousands of shareholders against Boeing, culminating in a proposed settlement that was the second-largest awarded in the Northwest.
- [NCAA Concussions](#) – \$75 million settlement, and 50-year medical monitoring fund, Led the firm's pioneering NCAA concussions suit that culminated in a proposed settlement that will provide a 50-year medical-monitoring program for student-athletes to screen for and track head injuries; make sweeping changes to the NCAA's approach to concussion treatment and prevention; and establish a \$5 million fund for concussion research, preliminarily approved by the court.

#### RECENT CASES

- [Antitrust Litigation](#)  
Corporate fraud has many faces, and Steve has taken on some of the largest perpetrators through antitrust law. Steve has helped lead the firm's efforts taking on price-fixing in the agricultural industry, holding food conglomerates accountable for fixing the prices of [beef](#), [pork](#), [chicken](#) and [turkey](#). Across those matters, the firm has so far achieved multiple icebreaker settlements and looks forward to returning additional funds to millions of consumers who unknowingly overpaid for basic kitchen staples. In its [wage-fixing antitrust against poultry processors](#), Steve has helped the firm to secure a combined total of \$180.1 million in settlements, bringing

relief to non-supervisory production and maintenance employees at chicken processing plants. In that case, the Department of Justice has taken note, announcing a restitution clause that orders these companies to provide payment – either through an approved settlement in the class-action litigation brought by Hagens Berman or, only in the alternative, directly to the DOJ. The firm has brought [similar claims against major red meat processing companies](#).

In 2014 Steve was quoted in Vanity Fair in an article about his e-books case vs. Apple and the big five publishing companies, which had just gone to the Supreme Court where he won against Apple in a combined \$560 million settlement with all defendants. Steve said then, as he looked from his Seattle office to Amazon's HQ, "I'd love to sue Amazon. It's the only big company I haven't sued." Steve stuck to his word, and now his firm has several active cases against Amazon, most of which are antitrust cases alleging billions of dollars in price-fixing damages. The cases range from price-fixing affecting the [cost of iPhones and iPads, e-books](#) and [retail bookstores](#) to wider claims involving Amazon's [third-party Marketplace, multi-seller listings](#) and [more](#). Amazon itself has stated the current Amazon price-fixing cases are the largest in U.S. history.

In another antitrust win in a technology-focused issue, Steve led the firm to two back-to-back settlements against Apple and Google involving anticompetitive policies and practices in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. In those lawsuits, the firm accused the tech giants of monopolizing against U.S. developers of iOS and Android apps, cheating them out of profits through antitrust violations. In both [Apple's \\$100 million settlement](#) and [Google's \\$90 million settlement](#), the companies were forced to make sweeping changes to their practices, allowing small app developers in the U.S. to finally receive their just rewards for their work. Plaintiffs in those cases went on to receive settlement checks for upwards of tens of thousands of dollars, some higher. Hagens Berman is now seeking to represent a class of [France-based iOS developers](#) against Apple for the same behavior.

- [Emissions Litigation](#)

Steve has pioneered pursuing car manufacturers who have been violating emissions standards, including: [Mercedes BlueTEC](#) vehicles, [GM Chevy Cruze](#), [Dodge Ram 2500 and 3500 trucks](#), [Dodge Ram 1500](#) and [Jeep Cherokee](#) EcoDiesel vehicles, [Chevy Silverado](#), [GMC Sierra](#) as well as other models made by [Ford](#), [Audi](#) and [BMW](#). Steve and the firm's unmatched work in emissions-cheating investigations is often ahead of the EPA and government regulators.

- Opioids - [Orange County and Santa Clara County, Seattle, and the States of Ohio, Mississippi and Arkansas](#)

Steve has been retained by various municipalities, including the states of Ohio, Mississippi and Arkansas, Orange County, as well as the city of Seattle to serve as trial counsel in a recently filed state suit against five manufacturers of opioids seeking to recover public costs resulting from the opioid manufacturer's deceptive marketing.

- [Consumer Protection](#)

Steve is a leader in protecting millions of consumers in large-scale cases that challenge unfair, deceptive and fraudulent practices, and the firm's automotive litigation practice area bolsters that mission. The firm is currently pursuing multiple automotive defect cases against Hyundai and Kia in which millions of vehicles are affected and prone to spontaneous fires. Those class actions accuse the automakers of knowingly selling vehicles with a series of defects affecting engines and the hydraulic and electronic control unit. The firm has settled two of these cases



resulting in over ten million cars eligible for repair and consumers entitled to additional benefits. Judge Josephine Staton called the [most recent settlement](#) comprehensive and able to protect against future harms, noting that the deal is substantially similar to the settlement Hagens Berman finalized in May 2021 in [In Re: Hyundai and Kia Engine Litigation](#), which was valued at \$1.3 billion.

In another active defect case against Hyundai and Kia, the firm represents consumers who own certain model vehicles manufactured and sold by the automakers without an immobilizer, [leaving them vulnerable to theft](#), and often leaving owners with repair bills in excess of \$10,000. The firm in 2023 secured a settlement valued at more than \$200 million to bring swift remedy to those facing this issue affecting more than 8 million vehicles.

Hundreds of thousands of consumers are also affected by the firm's multiple cases pertaining to defective CP4 fuel pumps manufactured by Bosch. The affected vehicles' fuel pumps wear down quickly due to the lack of lubrication in U.S. diesel fuel. Having only been manufactured to handle other grades of diesel, the CP4 pumps erode, causing metal shavings to leak into the fuel system, leading to sudden engine failure. The defect manifests as early as mile one, and because no fix for the defect exists, owners of affected vehicles are left paying high prices for costly replacement CP4 pumps and engine failures, only to repeat the problem. Hagens Berman is currently pursuing litigation against the Big Three automakers, [Ford, GM and Stellantis/Fiat Chrysler](#), as well as a more recently filed [CP4 defect case against Nissan](#).

#### RECENT SUCCESS

- [Volkswagen Franchise Dealerships](#) – \$1.6 billion settlement  
Lead counsel for VW franchise dealers' suit, in which a settlement of \$1.6 billion has received final approval, and represents a substantial recovery for the class.
- [Stericycle Sterisafe Contract Litigation](#) – \$295 million settlement  
Hagens Berman's team, led by Steve Berman, filed a class-action lawsuit against Stericycle, a massive medical waste disposal company and achieved a sizable settlement for hundreds of thousands of its small business customers.
- [NCAA Grant in Aid Scholarships](#) – \$208 million settlement  
Served as co-lead counsel in the Alston case that successfully challenged the NCAA's limitations on the benefits college athletes can receive as part of a scholarship, culminating in a \$208 million settlement and injunction upheld by the Supreme Court. The recovery amounts to 100 percent of single damages in an exceptional result in an antitrust case. Steve also co-lead the 2018 trial on the injunctive aspect of the case which resulted in a change of NCAA rules limiting the financial treatment of athletes. The injunction, which was upheld in a unanimous Supreme Court decision in June 2021, prohibits the NCAA from enforcing any rules that fix or limit compensation provided to college athletes by schools or conferences in consideration for their athletic services other than cash compensation untethered to education-related expenses. According to the Ninth Circuit, the NCAA is "permanently restrained and enjoined from agreeing to fix or limit compensation or benefits related to education" that conferences may make available. In the Supreme Court's 9-0, Justice Kavanaugh stated, "The NCAA is not above the law."
- [Hyundai/Kia Engine Fire Defect](#) – Settlements yet to be totaled, with one estimated relief valued at up to \$1.3 billion  
In 2023, the court preliminarily approved a settlement that will benefit more than 2.1 million Hyundai and Kia owners suffering from a serious defect that can cause

spontaneous fires and engine failure. The defect affected multiple engines, and spurred two settling cases. In May 2021, Hagens Berman achieved a settlement offering relief valued at up to \$1.3 billion for the owners of Hyundai and Kia vehicles equipped with Theta II GDI engines, and this newest settlement brings relief to owners of vehicles with Gamma GDI and Nu GDI engines as well as Theta II MPI engines.

- [Hyundai/Kia Theft Defect](#) – \$200 million settlement  
The firm achieved swift relief in this class action stemming from Hyundai and Kia's failure to equip nearly nine million 2011-2022 models with an immobilizer, a common antitheft device in modern cars which prevents most vehicles from being started unless a code is transmitted from the vehicle's smart key. The lack of immobilizer in affected vehicles spawned viral "Kia Challenge" TikTok videos demonstrating simple measures "Kia Boys" take to steal affected Hyundai and Kia vehicles using only a common USB charging cord or similar metal object to start the engine, allowing thieves to steal them in less than 90 seconds.

### ACTIVITIES

- In April of 2021, the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS) launched the Kathy and Steve Berman Western Forest and Fire Initiative with a philanthropic gift from Steve (BS '76) and his wife, Kathy. The program will improve society's ability to manage western forests to mitigate the risks of large wildfires, revitalize human communities and adapt to climate change. Steve studied at the School of Natural Resources (now SEAS) and volunteered as a firefighter due to his focus on environmental stewardship. [more](#)
- In 2003, the University of Washington announced the establishment of the Kathy and Steve Berman Environmental Law Clinic. The Berman Environmental Law Clinic draws on UW's environmental law faculty and extensive cross-campus expertise in fields such as Zoology, Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, Forest Resources, Environmental Health and more. In addition to representing clients in court, the clinic has become a definitive information resource on contemporary environmental law and policy, with special focus on the Pacific Northwest.

### RECOGNITION

- 2023 500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers, Lawdragon
- 2018, 2020, 2022 Titan of the Plaintiffs Bar, Law360
- 2022 Leading Commercial Litigators, The Daily Journal
- 2022 Hall of Fame Class, Lawdragon
- 2017, 2022 Plaintiffs' Attorneys Trailblazer, The National Law Journal
- 2014-2016, 2018-2019, 2022 Elite Trial Lawyers, *The National Law Journal*
- 1999-2022 Washington Super Lawyers
- 2008-2021 Massachusetts Super Lawyer
- 2021 Sports & Entertainment Law Trailblazer, *The National Law Journal*
- 2021, 2019, 2018 Honoree for Outstanding Antitrust Litigation Achievement in Private Law Practice, American Antitrust Institute
- 2016-2020 Class Action MVP of the Year, Law360



- 2019-2020 Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America, Plaintiff Financial Lawyers
- 2014-2019 Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America
- 2018 State Executive Committee member, The National Trial Lawyers
- 2018 Top Attorney of the Year, International Association of Top Professionals
- 2017 Class Actions (Plaintiff) Law Firm of the Year in California, Global Law Experts
- 2014 Finalist for Trial Lawyer of the Year, Public Justice
- 2013 One of the 100 most influential attorneys in America, *The National Law Journal*
- 2011 Trial Lawyer of the Year, Public Justice
- 2000 Most powerful lawyer in the state of Washington, *The National Law Journal*
- One of the top 10 plaintiffs' firms in the country, *The National Law Journal*

[View all Awards and Recognition](#)

#### OTHER NOTABLE CASES

- [VW Emissions Litigation](#) – \$14.7 billion settlement  
Steve served as a member of the Plaintiffs Steering Committee representing owners of Volkswagen CleanDiesel vehicles that were installed with emissions-cheating software.
- [McKesson Drug Class Litigation](#) – \$350 million settlement  
Lead counsel in an action that led to a rollback of benchmark prices of hundreds of brand name drugs, and relief for third-party payers and insurers. His discovery of the McKesson scheme led to follow up lawsuits by governmental entities and recovery in total of over \$600 million.
- [Average Wholesale Price Litigation](#) – \$338 million settlement  
Steve served as lead trial counsel, securing trial verdicts against three drug companies that paved the way for settlement.
- [DRAM Memory Antitrust](#) – \$345 million settlement  
Forged a class-action suit against leading DRAM (Dynamic Random Access Memory) manufacturers, claiming the companies secretly agreed to reduce the supply of DRAM in order to artificially raise prices.
- [Stericycle Sterisafe Contract Litigation](#) – \$295 million settlement  
Hagens Berman's team, led by Steve Berman, filed a class-action lawsuit against Stericycle, a massive medical waste disposal company, and achieved a sizable settlement for hundreds of thousands of its small business customers.
- [Hyundai / Kia Fuel Efficiency](#) – \$255 million settlement  
Led the firm's aggressive fight against Hyundai and Kia on behalf of defrauded consumers who alleged the automakers had misrepresented fuel economies in vehicles, securing what was believed to then be the second-largest automotive settlement in history.
- [Bextra/Celebrex Marketing and Products Liability Litigation](#) – \$89 million settlement  
Served as court-appointed member of the Plaintiffs Steering Committee and represented nationwide consumers and third-party payers who paid for Celebrex and Bextra. The firm was praised by the court for its "unstinting" efforts on behalf of the class.

- [McKesson Governmental Entity Class Litigation](#) – \$82 million settlement  
Steve was lead counsel for a nationwide class of local governments that resulted in a settlement for drug price-fixing claims.
- [NCAA/Electronic Arts Name and Likeness](#) – \$60 million settlement  
Represented current and former student-athletes against the NCAA and Electronic Arts concerning illegal use of college football and basketball players' names and likenesses in video games without permission or consent from the players.
- [Dairy Price-Fixing](#) – \$52 million settlement  
This antitrust suit's filing unearthed a massive collusion between the biggest dairy producers in the country, responsible for almost 70 percent of the nation's milk. Not only was the price of milk artificially inflated, but this scheme ultimately also cost 500,000 young cows their lives.
- [State and Governmental Drug Litigation](#)  
Steve served as outside counsel for the state of New York for its Vioxx claims, several states for AWP claims and several states for claims against McKesson. In each representation, Steve recovered far more than the states in the NAAG multi-state settlements.
- [Exxon Mobile Oil Spill](#)  
Steve represented clients against Exxon Mobil affected by the 10 million gallons of oil spilled off the coast of Alaska by the Exxon Valdez (multimillion dollar award).

#### PRESENTATIONS

- Steve is a frequent public speaker and has been a [guest lecturer at Stanford University](#), University of Washington, University of Michigan and Seattle University Law School.

#### PERSONAL INSIGHT

Steve was a high school and college soccer player and coach. Now that his daughter's soccer skills exceed his, he is relegated to being a certified soccer referee and spends weekends being yelled at by parents, players and coaches (as opposed to being yelled at by judges during the week). Steve is also an avid cyclist and is heavily involved in working with young riders on the international [Hagens Berman Axeon](#) cycling team.



[riop@hbsslaw.com](mailto:riop@hbsslaw.com)

T 510-725-3000

F 510-725-3001

715 Hearst Avenue  
Suite 202  
Berkeley, CA 94710

#### YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

8

#### PRACTICE AREAS

[Antitrust Litigation](#)  
[Class Action](#)  
[Consumer Rights](#)  
[High Tech Litigation](#)

#### INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

- Film Development

#### BAR ADMISSIONS

- California

#### COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. District Court for the Central District of California
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California

#### CLERKSHIPS

- Honorable Jerome Farris of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 2013 - 2014

#### EDUCATION

**HARVARD  
LAW SCHOOL**  
Harvard Law School, *magna cum laude*, 2013

#### PARTNER

## Rio S. Pierce

Rio focuses his practice on enforcing antitrust laws and ensuring fair and free markets for the benefit of consumers.

#### CURRENT ROLE

- Partner, Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP

#### RECENT SUCCESS

- [\*In re Broiler Chicken Antitrust Litig.\*](#), No. 16-CV-08637 (N.D. Ill.) (part of team at Hagens Berman for indirect purchaser class; recovery to date of \$181 million)
- [\*In re Pork Antitrust Litig.\*](#), No. 18-CV-01776 (D. Minn.) (part of team at Hagens Berman serving as co-lead counsel for indirect purchaser class; recovery to date of \$95 million)
- [\*Qualcomm Antitrust Litigation.\*](#), No. 5:17-md-02773 (N.D. Cal.) (part of team at Hagens Berman acting as counsel for indirect purchaser class that resulted in certified class of hundreds of millions of consumers)
- [\*In re Optical Disk Drive Antitrust Litig.\*](#), No. 10-md-02143 (N.D. Cal.) (team at Hagens Berman acting as lead counsel for indirect purchaser class; recovery of \$205 million)

#### EXPERIENCE

- Prior to joining Hagens Berman, Mr. Pierce worked as an associate for two years at Munger, Tolles & Olson, where he gained significant experience in class action and complex commercial litigation. Mr. Pierce also did extensive pro bono work on immigration matters.
- Law Clerk, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Judge Jerome Farris, 2013 – 2014
- Associate, Munger Tolles & Olson, 2014 – 2016

#### ACTIVITIES

- Serves on the executive committee of the Antitrust Section of the Bar Association of San Francisco

#### LEGAL ACTIVITIES

- American Association for Justice

#### RECOGNITION

- 2021 Top 40 Under 40 Civil Plaintiff Trial Lawyers in California, The National Trial Lawyers
- Chayes Fellow, National Prosecuting Authority in Cape Town, South Africa
- Teaching Fellow, Copyright EdX



#### PUBLICATIONS

- "A Heavy Hand or A Light Touch: What Force Will California's Anti-SLAPP Statute Have After Baral v. Schnitt?" *California Litigation Review*, 2015

#### PERSONAL INSIGHT

A proud California native, Rio loves exploring the whole state, especially Big Sur. Prior to law school, Rio worked at Miramax for several years and still loves a good indie film. In his free time, Rio enjoys making pies.



[breannav@hbsslaw.com](mailto:breannav@hbsslaw.com)

T 206-623-7292

F 206-623-0594

1301 Second Avenue  
Suite 2000  
Seattle, WA 98101

#### YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

7

#### PRACTICE AREAS

[Antitrust Litigation](#)

[Class Action](#)

[Consumer Rights](#)

#### BAR ADMISSIONS

- Washington

#### EDUCATION

**M** | MICHIGAN LAW  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
University of Michigan  
Law School, J.D.

WASHINGTON STATE  
**UNIVERSITY**

Washington State University,  
B.A., *magna cum laude*

#### ASSOCIATE

## Breanna Van Engelen

Breanna advocates on behalf of consumers in complex litigation, including in antitrust cases and cases involving unfair competition.

#### CURRENT ROLE

- Associate, Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP

#### EXPERIENCE

Prior to joining Hagens Berman, Breanna was an associate at K&L Gates LLP in Seattle, where she focused on Internet and technology law. Breanna took one of the first electronic impersonation cases in Washington state to trial. At trial, she secured an \$8.9 million dollar verdict for her clients – the largest verdict ever awarded to a non-celebrity in an electronic impersonation/invasion of privacy case.

#### RECOGNITION

- 2018 – 2019 Public Service & Leadership Award recipient

#### MEDIA INTERVIEWS AND COMMENTARY

- Brooke Jarvis, "[How One Woman's Digital Life Was Weaponized Against Her](#)," *WIRED*, Nov. 11, 2017

#### PRESENTATIONS

- "Taking the Distribution of Intimate Images to Trial," Presentation at 9th Annual Domestic Violence Symposium (Seattle, WA September 2017)

#### PERSONAL INSIGHT

Breanna grew up in Idaho, where she learned to ski in the winter and race horses on mountain trails in the summer. Before becoming an attorney, Breanna taught at a pre-school in eastern Washington. When she's not working, you can find Breanna on her parents' ranch in Texas, taking care of the land and snuggling animals.



[stephaniev@hbsslaw.com](mailto:stephaniev@hbsslaw.com)

T 206-623-7292

F 206-623-0594

1301 Second Avenue  
Suite 2000  
Seattle, WA 98101

#### PRACTICE AREAS

[Sports Litigation](#)

#### INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

- Sports Governance
- Sports Policy and Protocols

#### EDUCATION

##### SCHOOL OF LAW

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

University of Washington School  
of Law, J.D., 2021, Order of  
Barristers



Seattle University, B.A. Political  
Science and Legal Studies,  
*summa cum laude*, 2015

#### ASSOCIATE

## Stephanie A. Verdoia

Stephanie brings to the firm a deep knowledge of professional sports policies, protocols and governance to enrich Hagens Berman's robust sports law practice.

#### CURRENT ROLE

- Associate, Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP
- Ms. Verdoia's practice at the firm's Seattle office focuses primarily on sports litigation, where she applies her deep knowledge of sports governance, policies and protocols to bolster the firm's expansive work in this area of law.

#### EXPERIENCE

- Prior to joining Hagens Berman, Ms. Verdoia interned at Seattle's Legal Voice, where she researched legal issues regarding gender equality by analyzing the interplay between constitutional principles, recently enacted state statutes and prevailing precedent.
- Ms. Verdoia also interned with the legal department at Seattle Sounders FC, where she provided legal research and solutions responding to the evolving developments of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### ACTIVITIES

- Her additional experience in professional sports lends itself to the firm's sports litigation practice area. Ms. Verdoia has years of experience in the realm of professional soccer as a midfielder in Norway's Toppserien top division soccer and with the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) both for the Boston Breakers and most recently the OL Reign (formerly known as Seattle Reign FC).
- During her time in these roles, she trained with the top NWSL team to enhance squad development with the Reign; led Norway's Vålerenga Fotbal Damer to the national championship game; and was one of only 36 women nationally drafted into the professional female league when she began her professional sports career in 2015 with the Boston Breakers.
- Ms. Verdoia has also served as a league representative, helping to take a leadership role in the sport by conducting conversation with key league figures to further players' interests and advance gender equity in sport. She also implemented working standards to create a safer environment and established a framework for a future players association.

#### PERSONAL INSIGHT

As a lifelong soccer player, Stephanie spends her free time coaching youth soccer teams at the OL Reign Academy. She also enjoys camping anywhere in the Pacific Northwest with her fiancé, Shane, and her dog, Stevie.



[tedw@hbsslaw.com](mailto:tedw@hbsslaw.com)

T 206-623-7292

F 206-623-0594

1301 Second Avenue  
Suite 2000  
Seattle, WA 98101

#### YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

6

#### PRACTICE AREAS

[Class Action](#)

[Environmental Litigation](#)

#### BAR ADMISSIONS

- Georgia
- Washington

#### CLERKSHIPS

- Judge Mark H. Cohen, U.S.  
District Court for the Northern  
District of Georgia, Atlanta, GA,  
2016-2018
- Judge Marjorie Allard, Alaska  
Court of Appeals, Anchorage,  
AK, 2015-2016

#### EDUCATION

**Yale Law School**  
Yale Law School, J.D., 2015

**DARTMOUTH**  
Dartmouth College, A.B., 2011,  
*magna cum laude*

#### ASSOCIATE

## Ted Wojcik

Ted is devoted to working on behalf of those harmed by corporate misconduct, and has experience advocating for individuals in several contexts.

#### CURRENT ROLE

- Associate, Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP

#### EXPERIENCE

- Before joining Hagens Berman, Ted served as a clerk to U.S. District Judge Mark H. Cohen, and prior to that, to Judge Marjorie Allard of the Alaska Court of Appeals.
- During law school, Ted interned for the Alaska Public Defender Agency in Palmer, Alaska, and the New Orleans City Attorney's Office. He also worked as a student attorney in the landlord/tenant and immigration legal services clinics, and was an editor for the Yale Law Journal.
- Before law school, Ted worked for a year as a high school teacher in the Marshall Islands.

#### PERSONAL INSIGHT

A Maine native and recent Seattle transplant, Ted is working hard to master the intricacies of composting and to remember that the ocean lies to the west now, not the east.